

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
April 1, 2009
Herschler Building, Cheyenne

Present: Joe Thomas, Vice President
Jim Bennage
Shaun Sims
Jim Price Jr.
Dalin Winters
Patrick Zimmerer
John Etchepare

Absent: Bridget Kukowski
Bryan Brost
John Hansen
Frank Galey
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director
Leanne Stevenson
Mike Leath

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

Horse Update

John said the department is working through the Attorney General's office with BLM to gather horses and meet the AMLs. BLM is going to do two gathers; one in July and the other in October. Alan Shepard is leaving Wyoming for a new position with the Nevada BLM. That is a huge loss to the Wyoming program. Funding for the gathers is still a question. BLM is seeing several geldings in with the wild horses in many states. They are not sure who will be paying for their up-keep. BLM also has stated that about 75% of their budget is going for the care of those wild horses that are in holding pens, etc. Jason said the nationally, the AMLs are probably double what they should be, but in Wyoming, those numbers are much better.

BSL Lab

John said the groundbreaking ceremony for the new lab will probably be May 8. They will have to build a new incinerator first because it needs to operate 24 hours a day. EPA says all CWD waste must be destroyed, and brucellosis testing can be done at the new lab.

TMDLs

The board had some questions concerning TMDLs and Leanne said she would research that issue and get the information to the members. John said that at a recent meeting he attended, it was brought out that EPA rulings say if any pesticides or other chemicals such as for mosquito's, that nozzle becomes a point source. The ruling is being challenged. He also heard from EPA that agriculture hasn't been a player in the issue. Shaun says they (EPA) are continually moving the standards so it makes it impossible for them

to ever meet those standards. John said e coli standards are created in the east and do not reflect the waters of the western mountain streams. The board would like to discuss this further at the next meeting. **John will invite Suzanne Stevenson from EPA Region 8.**

Board Updates

Juan said he is hearing the cost of doing business is increasing for everyone. Juan also wanted to know if the Governor had announced a replacement for John. John said that no announcement has been made yet, and that his last day will be May 12.

Jim Bennage said he wasn't able to attend the quarterly meeting of the Business Council, but Cindy did say there may be an opportunity for agriculture to get some of the stimulus money for energy. She thinks the majority of the funding will be used commercially, but they may be able to grant some to producers. He has also been hearing concerns about the funding, etc. for monitoring. Shaun said most of the money comes from the mill levy of the conservation district, and those permittees with problems will probably be a priority.

Patrick said their snow-pack is looking pretty good.

Shaun said their snow-pack is pretty low and prices are up. He did indicate the conservation district in the southwest area is promoting a rangeland monitoring program.

Jim Price said he's hearing concerns of producers trying to do contracts on state lead land. He said the state needs to involve those leases with regards to wind energy. **The board would like to discuss this further with State Lands, so they asked if we could invite them to the April meeting.**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, President

Date